

REMARKS

Claims 1-73 are pending and subject to restriction and/or election. Claims 1, 27-33, 36 and 39 have been amended.

The Action stated that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions, categorized as follows:

The Action required that the claims be restricted, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, to one of the following invention groups:

Group I: Claims 1-21, drawn to a method of fabricating a fibrous member, classified in class 106, subclass 38.2.

Group II: Claims 22-33, 36-65 and drawn to an implantable fibrous matrix, classified in class 424, subclass 422.

Group III: Claims 34-35, drawn to a second implantable device, classified in class 604, subclass 224.

Group IV: Claims 66-73, drawn to a prosthesis, classified in class 623, subclass 1.49.

Applicants elect, **without traverse**, to prosecute the invention of **Group II**. Accordingly, Applicants acknowledge that the claims of Groups I, III and IV are subject to withdrawal from consideration under 37 C.F.R. §1.142 as being directed to a non-elected invention. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the withdrawn claims in one or more divisional patent applications. Applicants note, however, that pursuant to MPEP §809.03 and §809.04, the withdrawn claims are subject to rejoinder if a claim linking **two or more groups** of invention is found allowable.

Applicants look forward to receiving early allowance of the present application.

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Amdt. Dated May 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 12, 2006

Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of Applicants would be desirable, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Ramberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffrey R. Ramberg
Reg. No. 34,700

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c/o Kensey Nash Corporation
735 Pennsylvania Drive
Exton, PA 19341
Tel: (610) 594-4392
Fax: (610) 458-9934